

COMMENTS AND RESPONSE

In view of the comments below, Applicants respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the present application including rejected claims, as amended, and withdraw the claim rejections.

Claim Rejections 35 USC § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 7, 11, 19-20, 22, 27, 29-32, 34, 36-39, 41, and 43-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,878,034 to Hershey et al. ("Hershey"), in view of United States Patent No. 5,455,593 to Ross ("Ross"). Applicants continue to traverse this rejection for at least the reasons given in their previous responses. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 3, 7, 11, 19-20, 22, 27, 29-32, 34, 36-39, 41, and 43-46 without prejudice or disclaimer, thus rendering moot this ground of rejection.

Therefore, based on at least the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 3, 7, 11, 19-20, 22, 27, 29-32, 34, 36-39, 41, and 43-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly anticipated by Hershey, in view of Ross.

Allowable Claims

The Examiner has indicated that claims 8-10 are allowable. Applicants acknowledge the allowability of these claims.

Withdrawn Claims

Currently claims 2, 4-6, 12-18, 21, 23-26, 28, 33, 35, 40, 42, and 47 are withdrawn in this case. Applicants wish to defer cancellation of these claims until a notice of allowance is sent in this case. However, at such a time, Applicants grant permission to the Examiner to cancel the non-elected claims.

Conclusion

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims clearly and patentably distinguish over the cited references of record and as such are deemed allowable. Such allowance is hereby earnestly and respectfully solicited at an early date. If the Examiner has any suggestions, comments, or questions, calls are welcome at the telephone number below.

Although it is not anticipated that any additional fees are due or payable, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully Submitted,



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